

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 13301 180159Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 OES-09 DOE-15 SOE-02 MED-05  
HEW-06 /084 W  
-----013215 182205Z /62

R 171738Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9270

UNCLAS LONDON 13301

PASS DOE

E O 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TECH, UK, MNUC  
SUBJ: PLUTONIUM ACCUMULATION IN WORKERS AT ALDERMASTON  
WEAPONS PLANT

1. PRESS REPORTS ARE APPEARING REGARDING DETECTION OF PLUTONIUM ACCUMULATION TO LEVELS ABOUT THAT OF THE LIMIT RECOMMENDED BY ICRP IN WORKERS AT ALDERMASTON. TWELVE CASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO DATE, SEVERAL AMONG LAUNDRY WORKERS. ALL HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO OTHER AREAS OF THE PLANT.

2. HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE OFFICIALS DOWNPLAY THE

HAZARD INVOLVED, NOTING THAT THESE CASES AROSE WITH FIRST USE IN ROUTINE SCREENING OF A WHOLE-BODY SCANNER WHICH MEASURES GAMMA RAY EMISSION. SINCE PLUTONIUM EMITS ONLY VERY WEAK GAMMA RAYS, READINGS CAN BE ELEVATED BY PRESENCE OF RADIATION FROM OTHER ELEMENTS, E.G. CAESIUM 137, NATURALLY PRESENT IN THE BONES.

BREWSTER  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 13301 180159Z

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PLUTONIUM, HEALTH  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LONDON13301  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780339-0004  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** LONDON  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 55  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 50acfc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 jun 2005  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1711789  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PLUTONIUM ACCUMULATION IN WORKERS AT ALDERMASTON WEAPONS PLANT  
**TAGS:** TECH, MNUC, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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